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Press release - Liberal Mismanagement

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PRESS RELEASE BY THE HON. DON DUNSTAN, Q.C., M.P., LEADER OF THE
OPPOSITION.

There are five urgent and vital areas in which the present LCL Government has failed disastrously.

They cover all the matters a Government should be concerned with in this State.

They range from totally inept industrial development planning and totally inadequate care for the State's natural resources, through to a cynical disregard of what South Australians need in the crucial matters of water, education, transport, town planning, consumer protection and pollution.

The record is so bad that Labor will have no trouble at all in gaining office in the event of an election.

And from all its actions in the past two weeks, and all its backroom planning and organizing and tub thumping, it is clear that the LCL Government intends to have and wants to have an election.

If that is so, then so does the Labor Party, and it will be interesting to see just how quickly the LCL will change its policies when it is in Opposition.

In an election, the Government would like to stick to one issue only. But a State election is not a one-issue referendum. It concerns the record of a Government, and it is the LCL Government's shaking record that the Labor Party will be examining as it puts forward to the people its plans for making South Australia set the pace of the 'seventies.

Taking just one issue which is to the fore at the moment, under the LCL Government the increases in prices and taxes have been astronomical. There were seven new taxes on South Australians in the last budget, and the price increases have cut into every area of family budgeting.

Train fares, bus fares, and the prices of bread, water, milk, butter, meat, soft drinks, building materials, and now newspapers, have all been increased during the LCL's term of office. The welfare of every section of the community, and especially of the low income earner, has seriously suffered.

In view of their incredible record, I challenge any member of the present Government to a major television debate on the last television day before a general election, when ALL the issues that face South Australians in the five areas of LCL failure can be argued in front of the people. In doing this, it will be an election debate. It will not be a debate on the eve of Parliament as proposed by the Premier and whose challenge suggests that Parliament is not a competent arena in which important issues can be argued. My only comment is that Parliamentary debating and individual members of Parliament should not be treated with such disdain.

17/4/70.